NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES
2003 POLICY REVISIONS SUMMARY

SUBMITTED BY	POLICY SUBJECT MATTER	SUMMARY OF POLICY REVISIONS	CITY POLICY	STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations (FAIR) Steering Committee	National Economic Policy, Federal Revenue Policy, Federal Financing Issues, Municipal Financing Issues, Municipal Administration, Inter-Governmental Relations	The FAIR policy chapter was restructured to better highlight NLC concerns with preemption and unfunded mandates. The section on "Intergovernmental Relations" was moved to the beginning of the chapter, followed by "Finance" and "Administration." The Chapter's "Introduction" was revised to better explain the principal concerns and jurisdiction of the FAIR committee. All language relating to states and state activities was removed from the policy chapter.	The new language is consistent with a number of City policies and practices including maintaining local control, encouraging a diversified and stable local economy, and opposing unfunded mandates.	Support
Energy, Environmental, and Natural Resources (EENF) Steering Committee	Natural Resources Policy, 2.10 Public Lands	The Committee streamlined the "Natural Resources" policy, adding a new section, "Public Lands," which includes language on wildfire protection. The new language in the policy is much weaker as it relates to a role for locally elected officials in developing plans for public lands.	Staff recommends that the first three paragraphs of this section be maintained as previously written. This would be in keeping with LAP 1.i (16) : Build consensus, on a sub-regional level, on methods to address regional transportation, housing, and land use challenges and advocate those solutions.	Oppose
Energy, Environmental, and Natural Resources (EENF) Steering Committee	Solid Waste Policy, 2.03 Solid and Hazardous Waste, A. Problems B. Goals	The committee deleted language calling for cooperation of federal government, hazardous waste generating industries, and materials transporting industries.	Conflicts with Solid Waste Sub-element Policy 3.2B.4, "Increase demand for recycled materials by advocating local, state and federal legislation that will increase use of recycled content products."	Oppose

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Energy, Environmental, and Natural Resources (EENF) Steering Committee	Solid Waste Policy; C. National Solid Waste Policy 1. Source Reduction 2. Recycling	The committee deleted references to federal packaging standards aimed at reducing the amount of toxic material in the waste stream. The committee deleted language that calls for minimum recycled content requirements for items such as newsprint, glass and plastic.	Conflicts with Solid Waste Sub-element Goal 3.2E, "Minimize potential future City liability for wastes generated in the City," and Conflicts with Policy 3.2E.3, "Minimize illegal and inappropriate disposal of Household Hazardous Waste." Conflicts with LAP 3.1, Support incentives to limit all types of pollution at its source. Conflicts with LAP 3.2(2), Support the development of markets for recycled materials and products including support of legislation to increase manufacturer minimum recycled content requirements. Conflicts with LAP 3.2(6), Support advance disposal fees (ADFs) on the purchase of hazardous household products..."	Oppose
	4. Resource Recovery	The committee deleted a reference to requiring waste incinerators to meet federal new source performance standards.	Conflicts with LAP 3.8(7), Support efforts to manage and reduce risks from air toxics.	Oppose
	6. Landfills 8. Interstate Transport of Municipal Solid Waste	The committee deleted language requiring the federal government to restore favorable tax policies for financing landfills. The committee deleted language that subjects states to federal fines if states fail to develop comprehensive plans for interstate transport of municipal solid waste.	No specific City policy	No Position

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Energy, Environmental, and Natural Resources (EENF) Steering Committee	10 Electronic Waste	The committee added language to address the emerging issue of electronic waste management. This language urges Congress to develop a system, including a viable financing mechanism, to maximize the reuse and recycling of used electronics.	This new section is consistent with provisions of California's SB 20, recently signed by Governor Davis and supported by the City.	Support
Human Development (HD) Steering Committee	Education -- Implementation of "No Child Left Behind Act"	The Committee drafted policy voicing concerns about the "No Child Left Behind" law. The policy discussed the importance of addressing the comprehensive needs of students and the need for local flexibility and waivers from the requirements on student testing, teacher qualifications, and transferring students out of "schools in need of improvement."	LAP 7.1.12 Support funding for local governments and schools that are not in conflict with each other. LAP 7.1.11 Oppose unfunded or underfunded state or federal mandates. LAP 5.G.10 Support funding to allow for the expansion of the federal Head Start program to all eligible children.	Support
Human Development (HD) Steering Committee	Employment -- Workforce Development	The committee strengthened its current workforce development policy to ensure that the federal government provide resources for on-the-job training and increased funding for the Workforce Investment Act.	Socio-Economic Goal 5.1F Provide job training and employment services within constraints of operative, federal regulations and available federal funding, to address the locally-determined employment and training needs of economically disadvantaged residents and others with special needs.	Support
Human Development (HD) Steering Committee	Immigration	The committee strengthened its support for more federal resources to local government that have a large influx of immigrants.	No Specific City Policy	No Position

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Human Development (HD) Steering Committee	Children and Youth	The committee added language to support the 21st Century Learning Centers at the levels originally authorized in the "No Child Left Behind" Act.	LAP 7.1.12 Support funding for local governments and schools that are not in conflict with each other. LAP 7.1.11 Oppose unfunded or underfunded state or federal mandates. LAP 5.G.10 Support funding to allow for the expansion of the federal Head Start program to all eligible children.	Support
Human Development (HD) Steering Committee	Streamlining the HD Chapter	The full HD Steering Committee reviewed and approved the reorganized HD Chapter.	Not applicable as changes are organizational in nature	Support
Community and Economic Development (CED) Steering Committee	US Jobs and the Global Economy	The committee drafted policy to encourage US companies to continue operations in local communities. The federal government should encourage strengthening education and training to support the US employment base, provide tax benefits to companies to produce goods domestically, provide incentives to conduct R & D domestically, expand programs to support small businesses, and increase funds to local communities to build their physical infrastructure.	LAP 2 – Economic Development (3) Support state and federal economic development strategies with sufficient funding for new economic development initiatives, and in consultation with local governments, develop strategies for economic viability (i.e., trade policies). (7) Advocate at the state and federal levels for adequate funding for basis research and for programs that will strengthen the region's R&D infrastructure.	Support

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Community and Economic Development (CED) Steering Committee	Affordable Housing	The committee deleted NLC policy that provides general support of housing block grants and replaced it with broad language supporting federal housing programs that streamlined procedures, eliminated federal regulations, and provided local flexibility. The committee drafted policy supporting the Public Housing Capital and Operating Funds.	LAP -2.3 Housing and Community Revitalization (1)Support efforts to address the affordable housing issue in cities by continuing efforts to maintain local control, opposing federal and state mandates, bureaucratic layers, and attempt to remove local control of land use, zoning, and impact fees. Support uniform enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. (3) Support the continuance of the Section 8 rental assistance program, maintaining the supply of Section 8 and other predominantly multi-family housing threatened by the expiration of federal housing subsidy contracts, and efforts to ensure HUD sets a fair market rent standard that is reflective of actual housing market conditions.	Support
Transportation Infrastructure and Service (TIS) Steering Committee	Air Transportation	The committee simplified policy statements and added new language opposing continued diversion of Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding to security. The committee is recommending a new section on small communities which includes existing language on the Essential Air Service (EAS) program, and new language supporting the Small Community Air Service Development Program.	No specific City policy	No Position
Transportation Infrastructure	Harbor Maintenance and	The committee added language asking Congress to identify a revenue source for	No specific City policy	No Position

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and Service (TIS) Steering Committee	Security Funding	harbor maintenance. Language was added on security funding as well.		
Transportation Infrastructure and Service (TIS) Steering Committee	High Speed Rail	The committee added language extending NLC support for a variety of passenger rail funding mechanisms to high speed rail. The existing national passenger rail section has been streamlined and updated.	No specific City policy	No Position
Public Safety and Crime Prevention (PSCP) Steering Committee	Homeland Security	The committee added language on the important role of local government in protecting the homeland. For example, language was added about the federal government holding harmless local government from any claim or action that might arise out of any misinformation in carrying out a request by the federal government.	4.1 Law Enforcement Sub-Element 4.1D.1d Participate in Major Disaster Preparedness planning at all levels of government. Legislative Action Policies 4. Public Safety 4.1 Law Enforcement (29) Urge the federal government to assist municipalities in funding and training for public health risks resulting from terrorists acts. (30) Support strong intergovernmental partnerships that ensure effective communications, long-term financial support to municipalities for their roles in national defense, and true collaboration in preventing and responding to any acts of terrorism in America's cities and towns. 4.3 Support Services (14) Encourage prompt reimbursement of approved disaster recovery expenses by FEMA to cities determined to be part of a declared disaster area.	Support

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Public Safety and Crime Prevention Steering Committee	Immigration	The committee added language on law enforcement's role in immigration enforcement. For example, language was added that local police should not be responsible for the enforcement of federal immigration laws or the ongoing detention of individuals suspected of violating those laws. Also any costs associated with the detention of illegal immigrants by local governments on behalf of the federal government must be reimbursed.	4.1 Law Enforcement Sub-Element 4.1D.1 Coordinate law enforcement planning with local, regional, State and Federal plans. Legislative Action Policies (32) Support the "Extradition Treaty" (1988) be revised to resolve the issue of extradition of those suspected of committing violent crimes against people in the United States.	Support
Information Technology and Communications (ITC)	Local Authority	The committee added language on local authority: NLC supports a balanced approach to telecommunications policy that allows new technologies to flourish while preserving traditional regulatory authority.	Telecommunications Policy A.1 - Promote retention of the City's regulatory role in telecommunicatioins. LAP 7.3-Telecommunications (1) - The FCC's involvement in cable television issues shall not encroach on or supersede local authority to regulate basic costs and enforce customer service standards.	Support
Information Technology and Communications (ITC)	Consumer Protection	The committee created a new section on consumer protection issues which includes: media consolidation, unsolicited communications and abusive practices, privacy concerns, and network access and competition. The new section combines existing policy language with new policy language.	Telecommunications Policy A.4 - Advocate for privacy laws and security standards at the state and federal levels which protect Sunnyvale telecommunications users. A.4.b - Advocate for confidentiality guarantees of all user information unless otherwise consented to by the user, including access information. Telecommunications Policy E.3 - Promote a telecommunication system designed to stimulate competition and	Support

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			innovation.	
Information Technology and Communications (ITC)	Information Services	The committee expanded existing language to identify new and emerging technologies, including wireline DSL, wireless, satellite, and internet-based telephone and cable services.	LAP 7.3-Telecommunications (5) - Support retaining the franchising authority granted to cities by the 1984 and 1992 Cable Acts and extending it to any agency offering video, voice, and data services. Telecommunications Policy D.3 - Advocate legislation that identifies telecommunications revenue sources for local governments.	Support